

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A biodegradable fibrous support for soil mulching comprising a reinforcing grid associated with at least a part of the support, wherein the grid includes threads formed from ~~comprised of~~ a biodegradable polymer which is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, polylactic acid (PLA), ~~polycaprolactone~~, viscose, modified viscose, ~~polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate,~~ and mixtures thereof.

22. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 21, wherein the grid consists of threads formed from modified viscose ~~threads~~.

23. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 21, wherein the weight of the grid is between 10 and 50 g/m².

24. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 21, wherein the grid is positioned exclusively in an area of fixing points of the support on the ground.

25. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 21, wherein the grid is glued directly on a surface of the fibrous support by means of a water-resistant biodegradable glue which is selected from the group consisting of ethylene polyvinyl alcohol (EVOH), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), and mixtures thereof, the glue being present in an amount between 5 and 50% by weight of the grid.

26. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 21, wherein the grid is positioned directly on the fibrous support.

27. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises thermobonding fibres which are present in an amount from 5 to 50% by weight of the support.

28. (currently amended) A support according to Claim 27, wherein the thermobonding fibres comprise ~~PLA-fibres~~ fibres formed from polylactic acid (PLA).

29. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises a hydrophobic resin in an amount from 0.5 to 15% by weight of the support, wherein the hydrophobic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyamide-amine-epichlorhydrin resins, polyethyleneimine resins, starch derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

30. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises carbon black in an amount from 0.5 to 4% by weight of the support.

31. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

32. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable prevulcanized natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

33. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 32, further comprising a stabilizing agent which is selected from the group consisting of vegetable proteins, mineral fillers and mixtures thereof.

34. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 32, further comprising a preservative agent which is selected from the group consisting of animal proteins, tannins, natural colouring agents, chitosan, and mixtures thereof.

35. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 32, wherein the coating is present in an amount of 10 to 200 g/m².

36. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 32, wherein the natural latex is obtained from *Hevea Brasiliensis* and has a dry rubber concentration at least of 60%.

37. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises from 40 to 100% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres, and from 0 to 60% by weight of deciduous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

38. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises from 80 to 100% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 20% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

39. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 21, which comprises from 20 to 100% by weight of coniferous bleached kraft fibres, from 0 to 40% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 40% by weight of rayon fibres.

40. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 23, wherein the weight of the grid is about 20 g/m².

41. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 25, wherein the glue is present in an amount of about 15% by weight of the grid.

42. (previously presented) A support according to Claim 27, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 10 and 15% by weight of the support.

43. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 33, wherein the stabilizing agent comprises casein, soya protein, talc or calcium carbonate.

44. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 34, wherein the preservative agent comprises glycerin or indigo.

45. (withdrawn) A support according to Claim 35, wherein the coating is present in an amount of between 90 and 100 g/m².

46. (withdrawn) A support according to claim 21, wherein the grid is associated with at least a part of at least one support face of the support.

47. (previously presented) A support according to claim 46, wherein the grid is associated with the whole of the at least one support face of the support.

48. (withdrawn) A support according to claim 21, wherein the grid is incorporated into at least a part of the support.

49. (withdrawn) A support according to claim 48, wherein the grid is incorporated into the whole of the support.